

mulberry news

Autumn & Winter 2011

making your home more beautiful

SUMMER RNLI FUNDRAISER



You can't miss the RNLI in Swanage. They do an amazing job and we are very proud to support them. Every August there's a week of fun in the town to raise money for their essential work,

headed by the well known Lifeboat team. They are just a small part of the nationwide charity saving lives at sea, that relies on over 40,000 volunteers to run a 24-hour search and rescue service while also providing seasonal lifeguard services on many of the busiest beaches in England and Wales.

This year we did our bit by running a raffle with typically fabulous prizes!

Thanks to you, our star ticket seller Robin Tiller, and artist Rebecca Lardner who created the prizes, we raised an whopping **£5,000** for the RNLI!

The winners were:
1st Prize: Mrs Coakes
2nd Prize: Mr Green
3rd Prize: Mrs Ashton

Mrs Coakes, who is from Bournemouth was presented with the original "Homecoming Crew" on the 16th September at the Lifeboat Station in Swanage.

We have also produced a limited edition (95) canvas print of Rebecca's original and we will be donating further funds to the RNLI for each one sold.



© Rebecca Lardner

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FRAME ON - 20% OFF FRAMING 22nd & 29th OCTOBER ONLY

It's no secret that we think our in-house framer Steve is totally brilliant. This year he celebrated 20 years of work for the Gallery, which at the tender age of 37, ain't bad going!

He and our other framer James are both qualified by the Fine Art Trade

Guild as Guild Commended Framers. That makes them officially brilliant!

They can make almost anything stand out from the wall: watercolours, oils, etchings, mirrors, prints, posters, photographs, pastels, fabrics, needlework, maps, canvases, papyrus and memorabilia including sports shirts, medals and coins.

So if you're thinking about giving somebody a framed photograph or piece of art for Christmas, get started early.

We're offering 20% off all your framing on the last two Saturdays of October, the 22nd and 29th.

FIND US AT

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Swanage BH19 2LT
Tel: 01929 423141

✉ info@mulberrytreegallery.co.uk

FIND US ON

www.mulberrytreegallery.co.uk
www.mulberrytreecards.co.uk

We have a very comprehensive website & webshop where you can purchase all our artwork securely on-line



Facebook



Twitter



Your framing - it's our business

SHOWS & EXHIBITIONS

Ben Spurling - "A Summer in Purbeck"

22nd October - 12th November



© Ben Spurling

Ben is not used to being the subject of attention. If it weren't for his debut one-man show, he'd be very content to avoid it. But paintings are painted to be seen and so the quiet artist is forced from behind his canvas.

"A Summer in Purbeck" will be Ben's first solo exhibition. It's the culmination of many days spent painting on home turf, as he stops to capture a moment in nature when out for a walk or a bike ride. 'The exhibition is going to be like a pictorial diary of my summer' he tells me, 'it'll be quite interesting to see them on the wall because every picture has a memory for me'.

We look at a selection of six oils he has painted on location. One is a moody dark sky over Ballard Down; he recalls the mid-August evening and the threat of the cloud to the fine evening light. One of Swanage Bay was painted while his wife swam in the early morning. Another captures Old Harry, 'All the chalk had dissolved following a cliff fall and the sea colour was amazing. I was quite surprised by it'. He returned to the same spot a few days later and the light and colour were totally different. 'Old Harry seems to change every time I go' he says, smiling, 'in fact that time I was painting and got surrounded by about 30 students from Harrow House. One guy sat right next

to me, he was German and just nodded and said 'good painting, ja?' - I thought about calling it that'.

Painting on location has become an important part of Ben's work, as well as a treasured part of his routine - something he was introduced to at Art College in Swansea, when a lecturer took them to paint at The Gower. 'You feel the elements around you which is just fantastic and - I know it sounds a bit arty - but it helps you describe the area if you can feel it as well. I got hooked on it'.

He is so hooked that he's designing his life around the need to do it more. He now has a day off a week from his job as a graphic designer, so that Friday is now known simply as 'painting day'. On these days he sets out with his paints, sometimes on his bike, to capture moments of beauty or tranquility in the countryside.



© Ben Spurling

Essential to a travelling artist's backpack is a portable studio. Ben shows me his solution, the Pochade Box, with great pride. It's a lap sized wooden box. Under the lid there is Ben's palette, all messy and well used. Slide it away and you find his paints, brushes and pencils. And behind the lid, the really clever bit: three slots carved to stow drying paint boards away. With it Ben can make oil sketches on the spot, sometimes to be worked up into a bigger piece, sometimes sold as a beautifully spontaneous snapshot. 'Then it clips shut and I walk away and nobody knows that I'm an artist' he says, looking pleased.

It's the perfect way of life for a talented young man with a love of the outdoors.



© Ben Spurling

Ben was born in Swanage, the youngest of four. Even after attending local schools and ending up with a day job on the same road as Purbeck School, he has never taken the area for granted. 'It's such a great place to live' he says. His passion for the landscape is demonstrated in the sheer volume of his paintings.

Now making regular sales at The Mulberry Tree Gallery, things are looking up for Ben as an artist. 'A few people are collecting the work locally' he says with characteristic modesty, 'and I get lots of support from the Gallery, they've always been good to me. They really got me going with all this'. Which brings us back to that show; if you love Purbeck, it's a fine chance to see it at its best.

Interview by Hester Viney Sept 2011

MULBERRY TREE CARDS

We spend a lot of time and get great pleasure out of selecting artists with a broad spread of styles for you to choose from. Our range features some of the most popular artists at the gallery, including Ben Spurling, Sasha Harding, Sophie Harding, Jane Colquhoun, Paul Allen, Richard Hooke and many more.

Many of the cards are also available as Limited Edition prints. We love our position on the coast and are passionate about Purbeck, so many of our cards are chosen for their local theme. You can see your favourites online at www.mulberrytreecards.co.uk, purchase cards in our webshop, or of course pop in and stock up!

Did you know that...

The oldest known greetings card in existence is a Valentine made in the 1400s and is in the British Museum

We at The Mulberry Tree Gallery know that for most folk, art is a luxury. It's a treat, a generous present, a beautiful centrepiece for the home. But with our card range, we like to think you can get a little slice of luxury for just a couple of pounds.

NEW ARTISTS.....

Here's the low-down on three new artists now featuring at The Mulberry Tree Gallery:



© Colin Willey

Colin Willey is a Dorset painter whose work reflects his experience of the landscape.

He often revisits places as the seasons change, capturing moments of drama or beauty in light and atmosphere with his trademark oils.

He trained at Cheltenham College of Art and is a regular exhibitor at the Royal College of Art.

Colin's work will be in the gallery from mid October.

Emily Morgan looks for pattern and form in the natural world to create her work.

As well as capturing the subject matter of a field, a skyscape or a coastline, she aims to represent ideas of time, growth, change and contemplation through colour and mark making.

Her work is brave and modern, often using bold colours.

Since the beginning of 2011 she has been working as an artist full time, and the gallery is thrilled to have been chosen as one of select number of galleries that Emily shows her work through.



© Emily Morgan

Continued Overleaf...

If you've moved house or changed your email address, don't forget to let us know

NEW ARTISTS CONT.....

Julia Davey is a ceramics artist with a playful style that we love! She works from a little studio in Bath, Somerset making small batches of tableware inspired by personal events, places and objects. The original, hand-painted illustrations with which she decorates cups and saucers, plates and bowls, reflect

moments in the garden, a trip to the zoo or found objects that catch her eye.



STOP PRESS Sasha Harding Exhibition Summer 2012

Sasha will be having a solo exhibition next summer. If you'd like an invite to the opening drop us an email or give us a call

We stock original and one off designs from dozens of artists in textiles, ceramics, jewellery, sculpture, stationary, photography and glassware. If you're looking for art, remember you can also order online at www.mulberrytreegallery.co.uk
Happy shopping & we hope to see you soon!

Christmas 2011

If our fabulous selection of original artwork, prints, ceramics, jewellery and greetings cards aren't enough to tempt you in for a spot of Christmas shopping, how about **a glass of mulled wine** while you look around? We'll be handing them out to customers **every Saturday in December**, just to take the edge off the pressure to find the perfect presents! Also, it means you all stop to chat with us, which warms our festive hearts.

There will be charity Christmas cards on offer too, so come in and buy in bulk for a good cause.

We're proud to admit that here at the Gallery we don't just do what it says on the tin... Art is at the heart of our business, but it comes in many forms. There are bowls that make you stop and stare, cushions that make you smile and notebooks that make you reach out to touch them. That's what we look for from stockists nationwide, so that at Christmas you have a sparkly and special array of beauties to choose from.

We've got some exciting new collections coming in, so if you're in need of ideas, perhaps consider the following:



Greengate DK: Scandinavian homeware with oodles of cosy charm. Crochery, cushions and throws. We look at the catalogue and think 'I want everything in there!'

So instead we've ordered the best bits so that you can give them to your favourite people.

Emma Bridgewater: Ditto wanting everything.

Inspired patterns on things for the kitchen, sitting room or bedroom.

Good quality, cheerful homeware sporting polka dots, Labradors, love hearts and starry skies; selected best bits at the Mulberry Tree now!



Shruti: Makers of beautiful leather-bound notebooks, address books and visitors books.

Poppy Teffry has also designed a lovely selection of leather journals and bags for Shruti too. We've got them so that you can!

